

Plan for Closing the 241-Z Treatment and Storage Tank System in the Plutonium Finishing Plant Complex

U.S. Department of Energy - Washington State Department of Ecology - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (the Tri-Party Agreement agencies) want your feedback on a plan to close the 241-Z Treatment and Storage Tank System (241-Z). This comment period will also meet the public comment requirement for including this plan into the Hanford Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit as a Class 3 modification.

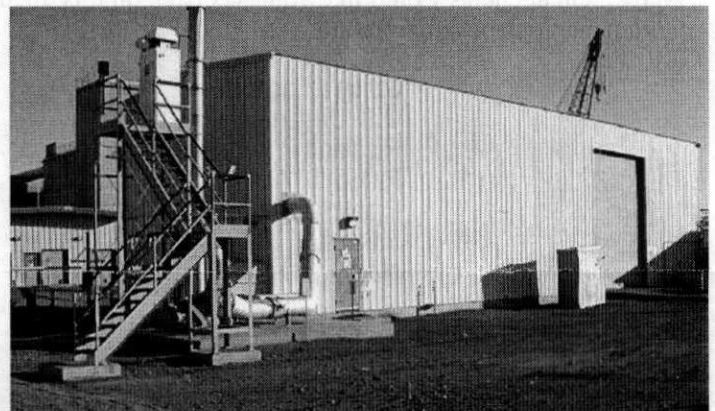
Background

The 241-Z Treatment and Storage Tank System is located within the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) complex in the 200 Area of the Hanford Site. The 241-Z is a RCRA permitted Treatment, Storage, and/or Disposal (TSD) unit used for tank treatment and storage of liquid mixed waste.

The 241-Z tanks began operating in 1949 and began RCRA operations in 1987. This system stores and treats liquid mixed waste generated from PFP process activities prior to the waste being transferred to double-shell tanks for storage until final disposition. The tank system is located below grade in a concrete structure that is divided into five separate vaults. Each vault contains a large storage tank and its associated ancillary piping and equipment. The center vault and tank are not part of the RCRA unit that will be closed under this plan.

What is a closure plan?

RCRA regulates hazardous waste from "cradle to grave" and requires each TSD to have a written plan to properly close the unit. The closure plan identifies how the unit will be closed, cleanup standards, activities necessary to achieve cleanup standards, and the methods used to ensure the cleanup standards are met. If the unit must be closed with waste left in place, a post-closure plan will be developed that addresses access controls, ongoing monitoring, future cleanup and closure.



The 241-Z building above the below-grade tank system

The 241-Z closure plan

The 241-Z Closure Plan outlines the closure process for this unit to ensure that 241-Z is closed in a manner that meets closure performance standards, e.g., minimizes the need for future maintenance, protects human health and the environment from any post-closure escape of dangerous waste. This closure plan proposes to clean close the tank system, i.e., removal actions or clean up to levels that place the unit in an environmentally safe condition and allow the unit to be removed from RCRA regulations. Radiological constituents not regulated under RCRA that could remain at the unit after RCRA closure will be addressed under future Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) actions. It describes the permitted system, the characteristics of the waste stored and treated by that system, the closure strategy, and performance standards for clean closure. Also, this plan identifies alternative actions if this unit cannot be clean closed.

Public Comment Period

The Tri-Party Agencies want your feedback on the 241-Z Closure Plan. The public comment period is from April 7 through May 24, 2004.

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Fact Sheet

What actions are associated with the closure of 241-Z?

241-Z closure activities are linked closely to PFP complex decommissioning activities. The 241-Z unit closure activities include removal of tank waste inventory; removal of selected piping and ancillary equipment; decontamination of tanks, remaining equipment, and vault cells; and, inspections and/or sampling to verify clean

closure of unit components, structures, and soil. Significant removal actions, such as removal of the waste storage tanks, are not anticipated under this plan. If the entire unit cannot be clean closed under this plan, the activities performed under this plan will leave remaining unclosed portions of the tanks system in a safe and a stable condition while awaiting final closure in conjunction with the appropriate future CERCLA response actions.

How you can become involved

The 45-day public comment period on the 241-Z Closure Plan is from **April 7 through May 24, 2004**. The Tri-Party Agreement agencies would like your feedback on this document and will consider all comments. Comments may be submitted to:

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To request a copy of the document call the Hanford Cleanup Line 800-321-2008.

The document can be viewed on line at <http://www.hanford.gov/calendar> under the Public Comment Period Section

The document is also available for review at the
Public Information Repositories listed below.

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